IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (original) An aqueous ink composition containing a coloring agent, a "dispersing resin containing a repeating unit structure (I) having an unneutralized group and a repeating unit structure (II) having a neutralized group and capable of being hydrated and/or dissolved in water", a "water-soluble organic solvent capable of swelling and/or dissolving the repeating unit structure (I)", and water.

Claim 2 (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the water-soluble organic solvent is a cyclic amide compound and/or a cyclic urea compound.

Claim 3 (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the water-soluble organic solvent is a glycol monoether derivative of a polyhydric alcohol.

Claim 4 (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the water-soluble organic solvent is a water-soluble low-molecular monohydric alcohol.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The aqueous ink composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the weight of the repeating unit structure (I) is in the range of from 0.05 % by weight to 10 % by weight based on the weight of the water-soluble organic solvent.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The aqueous ink composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the weight of the repeating unit structure (I) is in the range of from

0.15 % by weight to 5 % by weight based on the weight of the water-soluble organic solvent.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The aqueous ink composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the coloring agent is carbon black.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The aqueous ink composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the coloring agent is an organic pigment.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The aqueous ink composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the coloring agent is selected from oil-soluble dyes and disperse dyes.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The aqueous ink composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein the unneutralized group of the repeating unit structure (I) is a carboxylic acid group and that the neutralized group of the repeating unit structure (II) is a carboxylic acid anion group.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The aqueous ink composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein the repeating unit structure (I) has a molar ratio in the range of from 1 % to 67 % based on the sum of the repeating unit structure (I) and the repeating unit structure (II).

Claim 12 (currently amended) The aqueous ink composition according to ~~any one of~~

~~claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein the repeating unit structure (I) has a molar ratio in the range of from 1 % to 30 % based on the sum of the repeating unit structure (I) and the repeating unit structure (II).

Claim 13 (currently amended)The aqueous ink composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1, further containing a weakly alkaline agent, wherein the composition is alkaline.

Claim 14 (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 13, wherein the weakly alkaline agent is selected from organic acid salts and organic buffering agents.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The aqueous ink composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, further containing a water-soluble and/or water-dispersible addition resin.

Claim 16 (original) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 15, wherein the water-soluble and/or water-dispersible addition resin has a "repeating unit structure (I) having an unneutralized group" and a "repeating unit structure (II) having a neutralized group and capable of being hydrated and/or dissolved in water".

Claim 17 (currently amended) An inkjet recording method comprising ejecting a droplet of the aqueous ink composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 16~~ claim 1 so as to make the droplet adhere to a recording medium, thereby carrying out recording.

Claim 18 (currently amended) Recorded matter printed with the aqueous ink composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 16~~ claim 1 by an inkjet recording method.